

REMARKS

Claim 1 of the present application is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by the English translation of FR 2,267,138. Claims 1 and 2 of the present application are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by FR 2,542,203. Claims 1 and 5 of the present application are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Spekle et al., U.S. Patent No. 4,219,426.

In the Action, claims 3 to 4 and 6 to 16 are objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim but are indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitation of claim 3 and claim 3 has been canceled. Claim 4, which recites the same limitation as claim 3 but is dependent on claim 2 which recites a dependency on claim 1, has also been canceled. Claims 7, 12 and 15, which recite a dependency on claim 3, and claims 8, 12 and 16, which recite a dependency on claim 4, have also been canceled.

Amended claim 1 is the same as claim 3 rewritten in independent form. Therefore, claim 1 and the remaining pending claims, which all depend directly or indirectly on claim 1, are in condition for allowance.

PATENT APPLN. NO. 10/743,747
RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111

PATENT
NON-FINAL

Removal of the 35 U.S.C. § 102 rejections of the claims and issuance of a notice of allowability and a notice of allowance are believed to be in order and are respectfully requested.

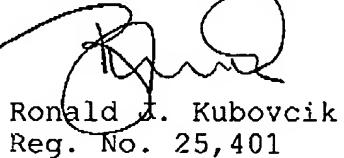
The foregoing is believed to be a complete and proper response to the Office Action dated December 5, 2005, and is believed to place this application in condition for allowance. If, however, minor issues remain that can be resolved by means of a telephone interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

In the event that this paper is not considered to be timely filed, applicants hereby petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fee for any such extension may be charged to our Deposit Account No. 111833.

In the event any additional fees are required, please also charge our Deposit Account No. 111833.

Respectfully submitted,

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